Please amend the claims as follows (this listing replaces all prior listings):

1. (Currently amended) ~~A circuit~~ An apparatus comprising:

a Universal Serial Bus (USB) device to connect to a USB host, the USB device comprising:

a PAD signal line connectable to an external signal line that couples to the USB host;

a keeper stage comprising at least one controllable weak pull-up device and at least one controllable weak pull-down device, the keeper stage to hold the PAD signal line in a weakly held state responsive to changes in the state of the external signal line that occur after a powering down, in which the control of the at least one controllable weak pull-up device comprises a logical NAND of a SLEEP signal and a PAD signal on the PAD signal line, and the control of the at least one controllable weak pull-down device comprises a logical NOR of an inverted SLEEP signal and the PAD signal.

2. (Original) The circuit of claim 1 in which the weakly held state is the last in time state of the external signal line.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) The circuit of ~~claim 3~~ claim 1 further comprising circuitry ~~configured~~ to disable the at least one weak pull-down device if the weak-pull up device is enabled and to disable the at least one weak pull-up device if the weak pull-down device becomes enabled.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The circuit of claim 1 further comprising a controllable output buffer stage which is able to drive the state of the PAD signal and having circuitry to enable and disable the output buffer stage based upon the state of an ENABLE signal.

7. (Currently amended) The circuit of claim 1 ~~further comprising a~~ in which the SLEEP signal which can enable and disable the keeper stage.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

after ~~a~~ powering down a Universal Serial Bus (USB) device, sensing ~~the~~ a state of an external signal coupled to a USB host; ~~and~~

storing the state of the external signal in a PAD signal weakly held in a stored state by a keeper stage having at least one controllable weak pull-up device and at least one controllable weak pull-down device, the weakly held PAD signal being responsive to changes in the state of the external signal; and

controlling the weak pull-up device with a logical NAND of the PAD signal and a SLEEP signal, and controlling the at least one weak pull-down device with a logical NOR of the inverse of the SLEEP signal and the PAD signal.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 in which the weakly held state of the PAD signal may be overcome by the external signal.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) The method ~~claim 11~~ claim 9 further comprising disabling the at least one weak pull-down device when the at least one weak-pull up device is enabled, and disabling the at least one weak pull-up device when the at least one weak pull-up device is enabled.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising enabling and disabling the keeper stage based upon the state of a SLEEP signal.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising turning on and turning off the at least one weak pull-up and at least one weak pull-down devices based upon the state of the SLEEP signal.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising implementing the controllable weak pull-up device and the controllable weak pull-down device with square devices in an integrated circuit.

17. (Currently amended) ~~A system~~ An apparatus comprising:

a USB device coupled to a USB host through an external signal line, the USB device comprising

a PAD signal ~~line;~~ line,

~~an external signal line; and~~

~~electronic circuitry comprising~~ a keeper stage ~~configured~~ to hold the PAD signal line weakly in a stored state responsive to changes in ~~the~~ a state of the external signal line that occur after a powering down, and

a processor that, after the powering down, is awakened when the USB host drives the external line to change the weakly stored state of the PAD signal line.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17 in which the weakly held PAD signal state is the last in time state of the PAD signal line.

19. (Original) The system of claim 17 wherein the keeper stage comprises at least one controllable weak pull-up device and at least one controllable weak pull-down device.

20. (Currently amended) The system of claim 19 further comprising control circuitry ~~configured~~ to disable the at least one controllable weak pull-down device if the at least one controllable weak-pull up device is enabled, and to disable the at least one controllable weak-pull-up device if the at least one controllable weak pull-down device becomes enabled.

21. (Original) The system of claim 17 wherein the circuitry is implemented in an integrated circuit.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the controllable weak pull-up device and the controllable weak pull-down device are square devices.

23. (Currently amended) The system of claim 20 further comprising a SLEEP signal line and control circuitry ~~configured~~ to disable and enable the keeper stage based upon the state of the SLEEP signal.

24. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a signal line that is driven by an internal circuit or an external device; ~~and~~

a keeper circuit to hold the signal line in a weakly held state that represents the last in time state of the signal line as driven by the external circuit after the internal circuit is powered down; and

a processor that, after the powering down, is awakened when the external device changes the weakly stored state of the PAD signal line.

25. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 24 in which the keeper stage comprises at least one controllable weak pull-up device and at least one controllable weak pull-down device.

26. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 24 in which the keeper circuit also holds the signal line in a weakly held state that represents the last in time state of the signal line as driven by the internal circuit before the internal circuit is powered down.

27. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 24 in which the weakly held state can be overcome by either the internal circuit or the external device.

28. (New) The circuit of claim 1 in which the USB device comprises a processor that, after powering down, awakens when the PAD signal changes state.

29. (New) The method of claim 9 further comprising awakening the device when the USB host drives the PAD signal to a different state

30. (New) A Universal Serial Bus (USB) device having a PAD signal line to connect to a USB host through an external signal line, the USB device comprising:

an output buffer stage to drive the PAD signal line and the external signal line;

a keeper stage to maintain a state of the PAD signal line in a weakly held state; and

a processor;

wherein the USB device operates in at least three states:

(a) when both the output buffer stage and the keeper stage are disabled, the USB device listens to the USB host through the external signal line,

(b) when the output buffer stage is enabled, the USB device drives the external signal line to send a signal to the USB host, and

(c) when the USB device is powered down, the keeper stage is enabled to hold the PAD signal line in a weakly held state responsive to changes in the external signal line, and the processor is awakened when the USB host drives the external signal line to a different state.

31. (New) The USB device of claim 30 in which the keeper stage comprises at least one controllable weak pull-up device and at least one controllable weak pull-down device.

32. (New) The USB device of claim 31 in which the control of the at least one controllable weak pull-up device comprises a logical NAND of a SLEEP signal and a PAD signal on the PAD signal line, and the control of the at least one controllable weak pull-down device comprises a logical NOR of an inverted SLEEP signal and the PAD signal.